Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: If the scheme is to supply water only to the town of Trichur, then a dam of 45 feet height is sufficient. If the dam of 45 feet height is constructed there will be no water available for other purposes. If on the other hand the height is increased to 75 feet there will be water enough for irrigation also.

TOBACCO SHOPS OF VELLARAPPILLY, CHENNAMANGALAM AND VADAVUCODE—AUCTION SALE—1113 AND 1114.

45. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what is the amount for which the tobacco shops of Vellarappilly, Chennamangalam and Vadavucode, were sold in auction for the years 1113 and 1114;

(2) on the basis of the total quantity of tobacco allowed to be imported into these tracts, what does the auction amount work out per pound of tobacco;

(3) whether the Government had received any petition from the inhabitants of Vellarapilly requesting that the 14 shops of that tract may be auctioned separately, and if any action was taken thereon?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar:

(1)

Tracts.	*Rentals for each of the years 1113 and 1114.*
	Rs.
Vellarapilly	7,285
Chennamangalam	3,310
Vadavucode	580

(2) Vellarapilly —One anna ten pies for one pound.
Chennamangalam—One anna do.
Vadavucode —Two annas eight pies do.

(3) Yes; The shops are invariably put up to auction one by one, but only when there are no bidders to offer reasonable rentals for some of the shops, they are sold *en bloc*. Even when this is done care is taken to see that the rentals fetched for each shop is higher than that offered by other people.

CARRIAGES AND ENGINES—STATE RAILWAY—PARTICULARS REGARDING.

46. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) do any of the carriages and engines running on our State Railway belong to our Government;

(*b*) if so, how many;

(*c*) have any of the carriages and engines been taken for rent or hire; if so, the number and the rate of hire;

(*d*) the total amount of hire paid last official year?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran: (*a*) None.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

(*c*) The Company provides sufficient rolling stock for the movement of traffic over the State Railway in consideration of the payment of a sum of 8 per cent of the gross receipts of the State Railway for each half-year.

(*d*) Rs 1,32,822 for 1936—37.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: What will be expenditure for purchasing the engines and carriages for our use in the State Railway?

Rama Varmha Tampuran: The exact amount has not been worked out.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Approximately, please?

Rama Varmha Tampuran: It has not been worked out.

Mr. President: We are taking up this question with the Railway Authorities now. I have in fact very recently given directions to the office to find out from the Railway authorities what will be the cost involved if we were to purchase our own rolling stock. This was an arrangement entered into as a sort of provisional arrangement at the time of the broad gauge conversion. I myself feel that if we have to pay one and a half lakhs of rupees as hire it really represents a capital of about Rs. 40 lakhs. I am taking up this question with the Railway Company whether it will not be more advantageous for us to incur the capital expenditure for the purchase of the rolling stock ourselves.

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